March Comes in Like a Lion

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After thirteen years of operation and eight years with this series, this chapter will be the final chapter of March Comes in Like a Lion released by us. If you'd like to hear more details on this decision, learn more about where you can read this series from here on out, or if you have any questions, feel free to head over to our site. We'd love to hear from you.

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How is it? We'd love to hear feedback, please drop by.

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Chapter 66

Where the Sun Shines

SFX: C'MERE C'MERE

AH, KIRIYAMA, OVER HERE!

YOU GOT A SEC?

将棋会館

OKAY, HAVE A SEAT.

AH, YAGIHARA KISHOU, GOOD EVENING.

YO, KIRIYAMA-KUN! CONGRATS ON BECOMING NEWCOMER KING.

TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

A COMMEMOR-ATIVE GAME...

.....

WITH SOUYA MEIJIN...?

EH? UM...

IS IT GOING TO BE HELD HERE AT THE ASSOCIATION BUILDING LIKE USUAL?

Just saying

WELL, USUALLY IT WOULD. BUT THIS YEAR IS DIFFERENT.

WE'RE GONNA CALL PEOPLE IN, DO INTERVIEWS, AND GONNA MAKE IT A BIG SHOW.

A REAL HUMDINGER.

that name out loud

ボリ ボリ

YEP!!

AS BIG AS A TITLE MATCH!

made my entire body

break out in goosebumps.

WOULD I SUDDENLY BE DOING THAT...?

WHY FOR SOME-THING LIKE THIS...

UM... REALLY...?

I DID, TOO.

もりもり

I HAVE!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT IT'S COMMON TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST WITH YOU KIRIYAMA,

AS THE 5TH MIDDLE SCHOOL PRO IN SHOGI HISTORY!!

AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE STILL FOLLOWING SOUYA

FOR A NEWCOMER KING TO LATER BECOME MEIJIN?

NOW YOU'VE GOT SOUYA TO CONTEND WITH...

BUT... IT'S WAY DIFFERENT FROM OUR ERA.

HONESTLY, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU GUYS.

DON'T YOU?☆

MAN, I SURE AM GLAD I WAS BORN WAY BEFORE HIM!☆ SURE AM!♡

THAT GUY WASN'T AROUND WHEN WE WERE STARTING OUT.

YES.

YOU SURE ARE MAKING IT SOUND SIMPLE, THOUGH!

YOU'LL BE A MEIJIN TOO, KIRIYAMA-CHAN! SOUNDS GOOD, RIGHT?☆ THE CURRENT MEIJIN AND THE FUTURE MEIJIN! IT'LL BE A REAL STARRING ATTRACTION!!!

SO WE'RE ALL GOT HIGH HOPES

AHA

UHHH

SFX: PONNN

SFX: SPARKLE SPARKLE...

HONESTLY... I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED IN SHIMADA'S LIFE...

—NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S A REAL MYSTERY HOW THE TWO OF THEM COULD BE THE SAME AGE...

...So Shimada's still in his 30's, is he...?

Clearly Shimada should be more like Gotou's age, right?

SFX: SHABBY

UM... DO YOU THINK MAYBE YOU COULD STOP THERE...?

I MEAN, HE'S THE SAME AGE AS SHIMADA, ISN'T HE?

YES HE IS.

HE'S AN OLD MAN NOW, THOUGH.

AHH...

STILL, REMEMBER HOW CUTE SOUYA WAS BACK WHEN HE GOT HIS FIRST TITLE~?!

HEY! SOUYA'S NOT AN OLD MAN!

I just got out of the bath

Achoo!

Somebody must be talking about me

AND THEN THAT IDIOT SHIMADA...

AND HE JUST HAD TO CRAWL HIS WAY BACK FROM THE LOSERS BRACKET.

HE LOST ONCE, AND THEN COULDN'T JUST TAKE A HINT

WE HAD TONS OF PEOPLE DOING INTERVIEWS

AND THE BIG BOARD COMMENTARY WAS ALL SET AND READY TO GO...

SHOGI ASSOCIATION'S MOUNTAINEERING CLUB TOP☆ALPINIST

ATTACK → INVITES PEOPLE HE LIKES TO THE MOUNTAINS. (AND PRETTY TALL ONES, AT THAT)

THE PLAN I HAD WAS

IT WOULD BE SAKURAI 7-DAN'S "CHALLENGE FOR HIS FIRST EVER TITLE!!"

—SPEAKING OF WHICH,

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THIS YEAR'S KISHOU CHAMPION-SHIP...?

POSTER: KISHOU SEN, GAME 1
MATCH: HEIAN YEAR...

#Imagination Video

Ah, yeah... I think I see it, too...

第67期 棋匠戦

対局：平成21年9月21日～27日
会場：和室「鶴の間」

Imagining it

AUGH. WITH A MATCH UP LIKE THAT,

WHO'D GET THE LEAST BIT EXCITED? HUUUH...?

I sure as hell wouldn't go if I had a choice!!

Close-ups of two dull old men...

I MEAN, COULD IT GET ANY LESS COMPELLING?

I GET DEPRESSED JUST THINKING ABOUT WHAT THE POSTER WOULD LOOK LIKE.

AND WHAT'S MORE...

IN THE THIRD MATCH TO DETERMINE THE CHALLENGER, HE WON IT ALL AND CAUSED AN UPSET AND ALL THAT.

将棋会館

SERIOUSLY, COULD I JUST GET A BREAK...?

B-BUT... SHIMADA-SAN PUT TONS OF EFFORT IN, TOO, UH, RIGHT? (VOICE OF A SHIMADA FAN)

SFX: KURUH (TURN)

YOU'RE REALLY HELPING US OUT HERE, KIYIRAMA-KUN. GOOD LUCK!!

—SO BASICALLY,

THE REAL WORLD IS A TOUGH PLACE.

Somebody's saying some pretty mean things about me...

For some reason I get the feeling

HE'S REALLY GOOD AT SHOGI AND HE'S STUBBORN... THERE'S NOT A SINGLE REDEEMING THING ABOUT THIS!!

AND ON TOP OF THE TOTAL LACK OF YOUTH AND SPECTACLE

IF NO ONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT, WE'LL LOSE SPONSORS.

THE KISHOU CHAMPION-SHIP WILL DISAPPEAR!

There's not one good thing about iiit!

Sigh...

将棋会館

HELPING... OUT?

I MEAN WE'RE "COUNTING ON YOU".

HEY, KIRI-YAMA?

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HOLDING SOMETHING IN THERE?

YOUR FACE IS ALL RED.

ARE YOU HOT?

WANT SOME BARLEY TEA?

I don't even know how I got home that day...

So many things were swirling around in my head

I was afraid I wouldn't be able to keep my balance.

And it kept going even after I got into my futon.

On the surface of the river

the light seemed to flicker

and sway...

Then, the next day,

SIGN: SHOUKA CLUB

将科部

SORRY I'M LATE!

SFX: GARARA

EXCUSE...

SIGN: CONGRATS ON BECOMING NEWCOMER KING KIRIYAMA!!
FROM EVERYONE AT THE SHOUKA CLUB

桐山君新人王おめでとう!!

将科部一同より

ME...

.....

TH-

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Clapping

NOW THEN...

LET'S ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE KIRIYAMA-KUN ON HIS WINNING THE TITLE OF NEWCOMER KING.

AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...

I PRESENT TO YOU THE FRUITS OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF THE SAKURA CLUB'S EFFORTS

ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN THE MENU...

Mr. Hachioji...

FIRST, THE JUICE WE JUST TOASTED WITH

WAS HAND-MADE GINGER ALE.

I made it using the fresh ginger [illegible] the garden.

THE CASPIAN SEA YOGURT THAT I DILIGENTLY RAISED IN THE PHYSICS PREP-ROOM REFRIGERATOR.

ALSO FRESH NATTOU I HARVESTED WITH WHITE KOUJI STARTERS.

NATTOU!!

WE HAVE PLUM JAM MADE FROM THE PLUMS FROM THE TREE IN FRONT OF THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE AS WELL AS OUR CLUB-STAPLE BANANA!

カエル

I MEAN, YOU REALLY PERSEVERED, KIRIYAMA! THAT WAS SOME AWESOME ENDURANCE!!

WHEEEW! YAMAZAKI REALLY WAS GOOD, HUH?!!

BUT...

YOU REALLY DID GREAT, KIRIYAMA-KUN.

ONE OF MY STUDENTS HAD A TITLE RIDING ON THE LINE!

WELL OF COURSE WE WERE EXCITED!

he wasn't even ashamed of his own voice.

he was screaming and everything

WE GOT REALLY EXCITED!

WHEN SENSEI WAS WATCHING THE PBB BROADCAST

Gah...

Hm? What is this. It's actually pretty good!

WHAT do you mean, actually?

AT THAT (IT'S ALL) IT LOOKED PRETTY GOOD THERE.

YEAH, BUT STILL

HOW RUDE!

HOW MUCH FORTHAS CLEARLY CHANGE WHEN THE RUNS!

HM? WHAT'S WRONG, KIRIYAMA?

I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM FOR A SEC.

UM...

What's going on here...?

When exactly was it

that I emerged in...

such a bright place...

AND EVERY EVERY DAMN

DAMN IT

IT WON'T STOP

"CONGRATS. YOU DID GREAT."

I MEAN WE'RE "COUNTING ON YOU".

"THANK YOU, REI-CHAN."

I wonder if these things I obtained so quickly

are going to just disappear again really fast?

But at least for now, I'm happy.

I really am...

Yes. Even if they do disappear someday,

I won't forget

SIGN: DIARY CORNER
PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES

HUHHH?

日記コーナー
『想い出を残そう』

LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRETTY WRAPPED UP IN HIS SELECTION.

IT'S KIRIYAMA.

WE RAN INTO HIM AGAIN EVEN AFTER WE SAID GOODBYE.

HM?

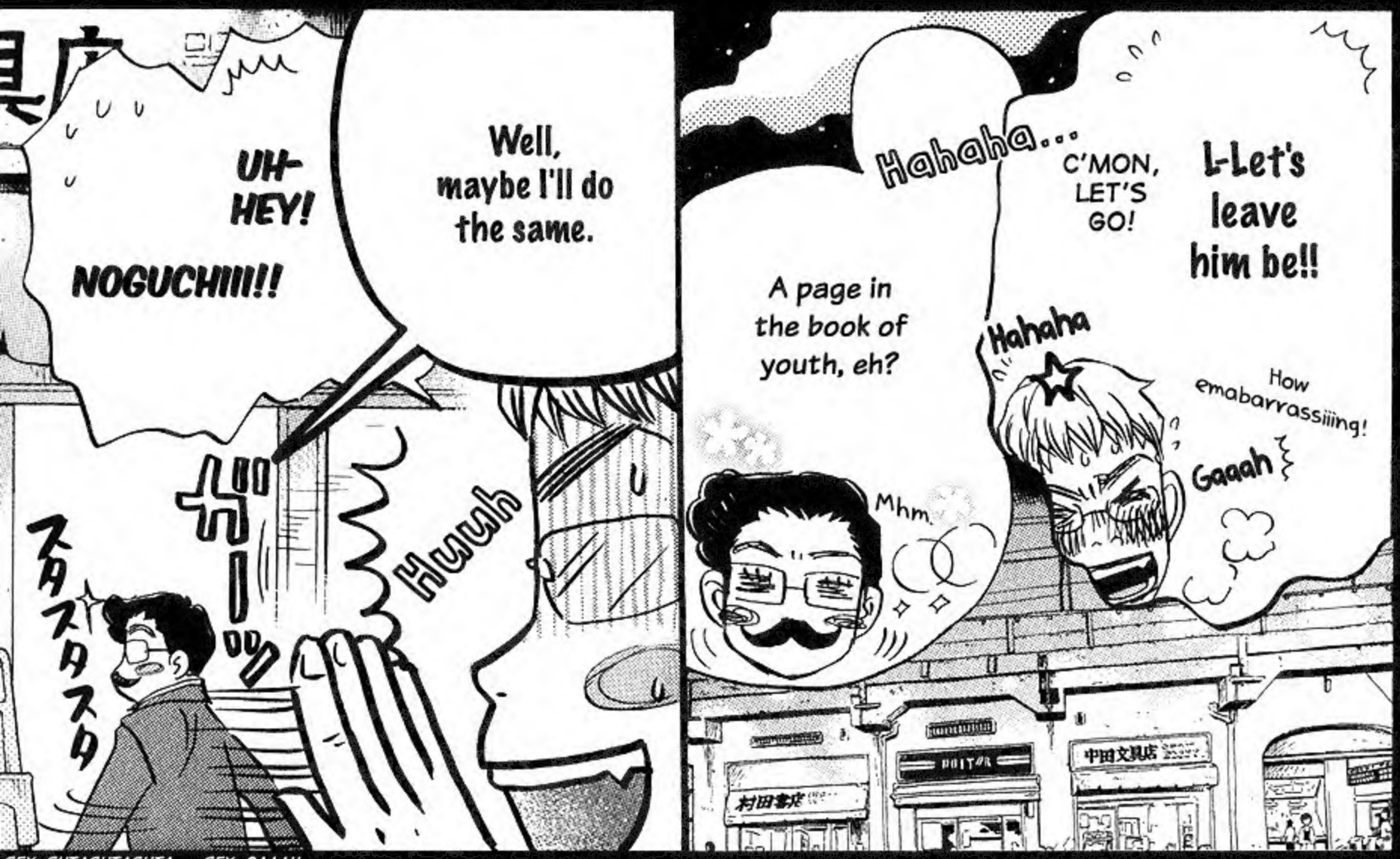
!

村田書店

中田文具店

that I had days when I was happy.

So that later, again, whenever I want,



SFX: SUTASUTASUTA SFX: GAAAH

I can dig them up

and remember them again.

Chapter. 66 END

COMMEMORATIVE MATCHES AND INSTRUCTIONAL SHOGI

The Newcomer King Championship, a shogi tournament sponsored by Shimbun Akahata is a competition with a real history. The winner of this tournament and becomes Newcomer King is allowed to play a commemorative match against the player considered to be the best at that time. But the way, it used to be an official match a long time ago, but not it's treated as an unofficial one. It is of course considered a serious match, but it's also probably considered largely ceremonial.

Shogi is fundamentally a gain about competing to be the winner, but many things also take place for ceremonial reasons. When someone wins the amateur Meijin Championship, they hold a game with the current Meijin who plays down a kaku. They used to be fairly equal, but with the skill of amateurs going up lately they are winning more frequently.

There are matches called the Ou-i and Female Ou-i Hirate Commemorative Matches. Apparently, the woman who was once the long-time Female King-Rank title holder, Shimizu Ichiyo-san, really looked forward to it. I do believe she defeated Yoshiharu Ou-i before.

As for the representative for this ceremonial match, it is decided in "First Play Ceremony" held January 5th every year. This game begins after the players and the staff gather to visit the shrine in front of the shogi building. When that ends, special matches happen with everyone in a special game room in the shogi building. Here they discuss in a large group how to play and take turns which moves to make one at a time. It's purely ceremonial and the games finish part-way through without a winner or loser being decided.

This is a bit of a digression, but once the rule of ending these games unfinished was broken and certain young players continued a game that was supposed to be called off and kept going until victory and defeat were decided accidentally.

When this ends, everyone has a big banquet with drinking. This is the first match of the year, so all the rivals are congenial to each other. This is new years, so the female players appear in kimonos and it turns into a big colorful party in the shogi world.

This First Play Ceremony is also held every year in Osaka, but it's a teensy bit different there. They break into pairs and play on a while bunch of boards lined up next to each other.

If you go to other places, there are commemorative games with the prefecture's Meijin Championship victor and that sort of thing. These, too, are all entirely ceremonial. So even if the players play to the end, there's no real fixation over victory. So sometimes when two players sit down at a board, it is not for a match, but rather for ceremonial reasons.